

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: M. TANNER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT - NEWSPAPERS, SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH (S/PRS)

NO. 9

SUMMARY: ALL THREE SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

(POST, STAR AND TIMES) PUBLISH PAGE ONE STORIES ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SADAT. WPOST HEADLINE -- "SADAT SEES 'HARD ROUND' FOR KISSINGER, PEACE POSSIBLE SECRETARY SAYS;" WSTAR HEADLINE -- "SADAT PLUNGES TALKS IN GLOOM;" NYTIMES HEADLINE (UNDER 2 COL. UPI PHOTO OF SECRETARY AND SADAT) -- "KISSINGER AND SADAT OPEN TALKS FOR A SINAI ACCORD."

1. WPOST (BERGER, ASWAN) -- "... AFTER HE HAD MET TWICE WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT HERE TODAY, KISSINGER HEARD THE EGYPTIAN LEADER TELL NEWSMEN AT A UNCLASSIFIED

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JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, 'I THINK WE SHALL BE HAVING A VERY

HARD ROUND THIS TIME.'

"SADAT'S WORDS SEEMED DESIGNED TO DAMPEN THE PREVAILING OPTIMISM IN EGYPT SUGGESTING THAT A NEW SINAI DISENGAGEMENT DEAL WITH ISRAEL IS IN THE BAG. . .

"IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED ON BOTH SIDES THAT THERE CAN BE NO REAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT UNTIL KISSINGER

UNDERTAKES AT LEAST ONE ROUND OF TALKS IN JERUSALEM. BOTH MEN, THEREFORE, WERE SAYING LARGELY WHAT IS TO BE EXPECTED AT THE OPENING STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. . .

"IT IS KISSINGER'S ROLE TO FIND A FORMULA THAT MEETS THE CONFLICTING DEMANDS OF EACH SIDE AND TO PACKAGE THEM IN A WAY THAT IS NOT ONLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE LEADERS BUT EXPLAINABLE TO THEIR VARIOUS CONSTITUENCIES. . .

". . . BUT WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD SIMILARLY RULE OUT ECONOMIC WARFARE, THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SAID, 'WHEN WE DISCUSS PEACE, WE SHALL BE DISCUSSING PEACE FROM ALL DIMENSIONS, BUT LET US FIRST DEFUSE THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION AND THEN LET US DISCUSS PEACE.'

"THIS APPEARED TO HINT AT THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING SOME OF ISRAEL'S DEMANDS A STEP AT A TIME, POSSIBLY FOLLOWING AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WITH MORE ECONOMIC INTERCHANGE.

"BUT SADAT AGAIN SAID THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE TO A NON-BELLIGERENCY PLEDGE 'WHILE ONE ISRAELI SOLDIER IS OCCUPYING MY LAND. THAT WOULD BE AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO STAY. I'M NOT GOING TO EXTEND THAT INVITATION.' . . ."

2. WSTAR (UPI, ASWAN) -- "EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT PREDICTED YESTERDAY THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER WILL HAVE A 'VERY HARD ROUND' IN GETTING A NEW PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL -- HARDER AND LONGER THAN LAST YEAR.

"SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD, MEANWHILE, DENOUNCED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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DAMASCUS 'DESPERATE ATTEMPTS' TO BURY THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS AND PROPOSED JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP. . .

"AT A JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS, SADAT RULED OUT THE DIRECT PLEDGE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY THAT ISRAEL IS DEMANDING FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS AND THE STRATEGIC PASSES IN THE SINAI.

"IF I AM GOING TO AGREE TO A DECLARATION OF NON-BELLIGERENCE WHILE ONE ISRAELI SOLDIER IS OCCUPYING MY LAND, IT IS AN OFFICIAL IMPLICATION FOR HIM TO STAY, AN INVITATION I AM NOT GOING TO EXTEND,' SADAT SAID. . .

"HE SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE HARDER THAN THE FIRST STAGE MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT ALONG THE SUEZ CANAL WHICH HE NEGOTIATED WITH KISSINGER IN JANUARY 1974 AND A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD TAKE LONGER THAN THE WEEK IT TOOK THEN.

"SITTING BESIDE SADAT UNDER THE GLARE OF THE TELEVISION LIGHTS, KISSINGER SAID, 'THE UNITED STATES FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT ANOTHER STEP IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE AREA, AND I BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE.'

"BUT HE APPEARED UNCOMFORTABLE AT THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT DREW FORTH SADAT'S ANSWERS. . .

"SADAT INDICATED HE WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO TELL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF AN AGREEMENT WHEN KISSINGER RETURNS FROM ISRAEL. . ."

3. NYTIMES (GWERTZMAN, ASWAN) -- "... BUT THE GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT STILL SEEMED TO BE WIDE. MR. SADAT SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE TO NIGHT THAT HE BELIEVED THE KISSINGER EFFORT WOULD BE 'VERY HARD,' TOUGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATION. . .

". . . IT WAS LEARNED AUTHORITATIVELY FROM A PARTICIPANT THAT AFTER MONTHS OF RECONNOITERING, MR. KISSINGER HAS OBTAINED SPECIFIC EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS TO PRESENT TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELIS IN JERUSALEM TOMORROW. . .

". . . MR. KISSINGER WILL PROBABLY PRODUCE AN 'AMERICAN PLAN' WHEN NECESSARY TO BREAK A DEADLOCK. . .

"DURING THIS MISSION, WHICH WILL PROBABLY LAST FROM TWO TO THREE WEEKS, MR. KISSINGER PLANS TO MAKE VISITS TO KUWAIT AND PERHAPS TO SOME OTHER PERSIAN GULF STATES, AND TO EUROPE TO MEET WITH THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER, MELIH ESENBEL, AND POSSIBLY WITH THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO."

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